



Fact Sheet: Extortionate Picketing

Section 602 of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) (29 U.S.C. 522) prohibits the use of picketing on or about the premises of any employer to extort money or other items for personal profit from the employer (except a bona fide increase in wages or other employee benefits). The Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) of the Department of Labor investigates allegations of extortionate picketing.

When is section 602 violated?

When picketing takes place

- on or about an employer's premises,
- for the purpose of the personal profit or enrichment of any individual (or as part of any conspiracy or in furtherance of any plan for personal profit or enrichment) except a bona fide increase in wages or other employee benefits,
- by taking or obtaining money or other thing of value from an employer against the employer's will or with that employer's consent

What are some examples of violations of section 602?

- A construction work site is picketed for the purpose of having the contractors make payments to various individuals other than for the increased payment of wages or other compensation in return for services to be performed by such individuals on behalf of the contractor.
- A car dealership is picketed for the purpose of having the owner provide car leases to union officials or other individuals at no cost or at a below market rate.
- A real estate developer is picketed for the purpose of having the developer sell property to a union official or other individual at a below market rate.
- A department store is picketed for the purpose of having the store purchase goods or services from a business affiliated with a union official or other individual.
- A business is picketed for the purpose of having the business make a contribution to a charity's sponsor for the sponsor's personal gain.
- A financial institution is picketed for the purpose of having that institution provide a loan to a union official or other individual at a below market rate.

What is the penalty for a violation of section 602?

An individual who willfully violates section 602 may be imprisoned for up to 20 years and /or fined up to \$250,000, or twice the value of any pecuniary gain he or she derives from the offense or twice the value of any pecuniary loss to some other person from the offense, whichever amount is greater, for each violation of the statute. A convicted person may also be sentenced to pay restitution to the victim(s) and other conditions of sentence. A convicted person will also be barred from holding union office or employment covered by Section 504 of the LMRDA.

How can I learn when picketing is an unfair labor practice?

Certain types of picketing may constitute unfair labor practices, over which the Department of Labor does not have jurisdiction. For more information, contact the National Labor Relations Board, a Federal agency independent of the Department of Labor. The addresses of their field offices are on their Web site at www.nlrb.gov.

What should I do if I think that extortionate picketing is occurring?

You should contact the nearest OLMS field office listed below.

Should I still contact OLMS even if the individual who personally profits from the extortionate picketing is not a union officer, employee or member?

Yes. Section 602 prohibits extortionate picketing for the personal profit or enrichment of *any* individual.

Office of Labor-Management Standards Field Offices

Staff is available to answer questions about the LMRDA at the OLMS Field Offices.

Atlanta District Office

61 Forsyth Street, SW, Room 8B85
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-2083

Birmingham Resident Investigator Office

950 22nd Street, North, Suite 601
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 731-0239

Boston District Office

JFK Federal Building, Room E-365
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 624-6690

Buffalo District Office

130 South Elmwood Avenue, Suite 510
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 842-2900

Chicago District Office

230 South Dearborn Street, Room 774
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 596-7160

Cincinnati District Office

36 East Seventh Street, Room 2550
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 684-6840

Cleveland District Office

1240 East 9th Street, Room 831
Cleveland, OH 44199-2053
(216) 357-5455

Dallas District Office

525 Griffin Street, Room 300
Dallas, TX 75202
(972) 850-2500

Denver District Office

1999 Broadway, Suite 2435
Denver, CO 80201-6550
(720) 264-3232

Detroit District Office

211 West Fort Street, Room 1313
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 226-6200

Grand Rapids Resident Investigator Office

800 Monroe Avenue NW, Room 211
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 456-2335

Honolulu Resident Investigator Office

300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5-121
Honolulu, HI 96850
(808) 541-2705

Houston Resident Investigator Office

2320 LaBranch St., Room 1107
Houston, TX 77004
(713) 718-3755

Indianapolis Resident Investigator Office

46 E. Ohio St
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 614-0013

Kansas City Resident Investigator

1100 Main Street, Room 950
Kansas City, MO 64105-5143
(816) 502-0290

Las Vegas Resident Investigator Office

600 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Suite 750
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 388-6126

Los Angeles District Office

915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 910
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 534-6405

Miami Resident Investigator Office

300 NE Third Avenue, Room 120
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
(954) 356-6850

Milwaukee District Office

517 East Wisconsin Avenue, Room 737
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4504
(414) 297-1501

Minneapolis Resident Investigator Office

900 Second Avenue South, Room 450
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 370-3111

Nashville District Office

233 Cumberland Bend Drive, Room 110
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 736-5906

New Haven Resident Investigator Office

Two Whitney Avenue, Room 301
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 773-2130

New Orleans District Office

701 Loyola Avenue, Room 13009
New Orleans, LA 70113
(504) 589-6174

New York District Office

201 Varick Street, Room 878
New York, NY 10014
(646) 264-3190

Newark Resident Investigator Office

190 Middlesex/Essex Turnpike, Room 204
Iselin, NJ 08830
(732) 750-5661

Philadelphia District Office

170 S. Independence Mall West, Room 760
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3310
(215) 861-4818

Pittsburgh District Office

1000 Liberty Avenue, Room 801
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 395-6925

Puerto Rico Resident Investigator Office

7 Tabanuco Street, Room 404
Guaynabo, PR 00968
(787) 277-1547

St. Louis District Office

1222 Spruce Street, Room 9, 109E
St. Louis, MO 63103
(314) 539-2667

San Francisco District Office

71 Stevenson Street, Room 440
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 848-6567

Seattle District Office

1111 Third Avenue, Room 605
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 398-8099

Tampa Resident Investigator Office

4950 West Kennedy Boulevard, Room 240
Tampa, FL 33609
(813) 288-1314

Washington District Office

800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 120
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 513-7300

For More Information

- Visit OLMS online at www.olms.dol.gov.
- Send questions to olms-public@dol.gov.
- Call the DOL Help Line at 1-866-487-2365.